

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 05239 01 OF 02 120617 Z

12/66

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 MBFR-03 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 047620

R 101628 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4396

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BONN 05239

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING STUTTGART AS INFO ADDEE)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB/ GW

SUBJECT: FIRST PRINTERS' STRIKE SINCE 1952 STOPS

PUBLICATION OF 60 DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

REF: EMBASSY A-222, APRIL 6, 1973.

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING A STRIKE VOTE CONDUCTED BY THE
DGB PRINTING AND PAPER WORKERS UNION (IG DRUCK UND
PAPIER) AMONG OVER 88,000 ORGANIZED PRINTERS THROUGHOUT
THE FRG SHOWING 91.8 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF STRIKE, THE
UNION LEADERSHIP CALLED A STRIKE AGAINST 60 MAJOR LOCAL
AND REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS BEGINNING WITH NIGHTSHIFT APRIL
9. PAPERS DID NOT APPEAR APRIL 10. THE UNION ALSO
CALLED A NATION- WIDE TWO- HOUR SIT- DOWN STRIKE FOR APRIL
10 IN OTHER PRINTING ENTERPRISES. FURTHER UNION ACTION
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PAGE 02 BONN 05239 01 OF 02 120617 Z

WILL DEPEND UPON THE OUTCOME OF NEW MEDIATION TALKS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 10. THE WAGE SETTLEMENT BEING PURSUED BY THE UNION IS BOUND TO BE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH OF THE 8.5 PERCENT PATTERN NEGOTIATED BY OTHER UNIONS EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR OVER 6 MILLION BLUE AND WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS MAINLY IN THE STEEL AND METAL INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES (SEE REF). COINCIDENTLY, THE NEWSPAPER STRIKE BEGAN AS THE HANNOVER SPD CONVENTION OPENED. END SUMMARY.

2. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS AND A LAST MEDIATION EFFORT COVERING ABOUT 180,000 WORKERS IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY THROUGHOUT THE FRG AND WEST BERLIN ENDED UNSUCCESSFULLY LAST WEEK. THE UNION REJECTED THE LAST EMPLOYERS' OFFER OF A 9 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE ALONG WITH STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE LOWER WAGE BRACKETS AMOUNTING TO AN AVERAGE 9.5 PERCENT, INSISTING INSTEAD ON ITS DEMAND FOR AN AVERAGE 13 PERCENT PAY BOOST. THIS UNION DEMAND WAS MADE SUBJECT TO A STRIKE VOTE CONDUCTED ON APRIL 6. THE RESULT SHOWED 91.8 PERCENT IN FAVOR, 7.6 PERCENT AGAINST, AND 9.6 PERCENT INVALID VOTES.

3. AFTER WARNING WORK STOPPAGES IN MAJOR PRINTING ESTABLISHMENTS ACCOMPANYING THE LAST PHASE OF THE WAGE NEGOTIATIONS, THE UNION LEADERSHIP DECIDED ON APRIL 9 TO CALL A STRIKE AGAINST 60 MAJOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS THROUGHOUT THE FRG.

THIS DECISION FOLLOWED UNION ACCEPTANCE OF AN INVITATION BY THE JOINT MEDIATOR, DR. KEMTER, PRESIDENT OF THE BERLIN LAND LABOR COURT, FOR A NEW CONCILIATION ROUND ON APRIL 10 AND EMPLOYER INDICATIONS OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS. IT APPEARS THAT THERE WILL BE A SETTLEMENT OF ABOUT 10-11 PERCENT WHICH WILL BE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH OF THE 8.5 PERCENT PATTERN SETTLEMENTS OBTAINED BY OTHER MAJOR UNIONS

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PAGE 01 BONN 05239 02 OF 02 120623 Z

14

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING STUTTGART AS INFO ADDEE)

EARLIER THIS YEAR (SEE REF), AND WHICH HAD BEEN TACITLY
ACCEPTED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS A CONTRIBUTION
TO ITS " STABILITY PROGRAM".

4. THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR STRIKE CONDUCTED BY IG
DRUCK UND PAPIER SINCE 1952 WHEN IT UNSUCCESSFULLY
ENGAGED IN POLITICAL ACTION TO PREVENT PASSAGE OF THE
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAW (BETRIEBSVER- FASSUNGSGESETZ).
BY DEMONSTRATING MILITANCY, THE UNION LEADERSHIP
APPARENTLY HOPES TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER THE RANK AND
FILE WHICH, IT FEARS, MAY OTHERWISE BE LOST TO THE
LEFT- WING RADICAL ELEMENT WHICH HAS GAINED INFLUENCE
IN THE UNION DURING THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. ONLY
RECENTLY, THE UNION LEADERSHIP CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY
TO WARN ITS MEMBERSHIP THAT ALL THOSE WHO ENDORSE THE
" RED/ REVOLUTIONARY TRADE UNION OPPOSITION (RGO) OR
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PAGE 02 BONN 05239 02 OF 02 120623 Z

GROUPS WITH SIMILAR OBJECTIVES" VIOLATE THE UNION
CONSTRUCTION AND MAY BE EXPELLED.

5. IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE STRIKE BEGAN ON THE EVE
OF THE SPD CONVENTION THUS INTERRUPTING NEWS COMMUNICA-

TION ON A MAJOR POLITICAL EVENT. OBSERVERS HAD
EXPECTED THAT THE NEWS COVERAGE WOULD BE HEAVIEST
DURING THE FIRST DAYS OF THE CONVENTION, WHEN PARTY
LEADERS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO DOMINATE PROCEEDINGS AND
SET THE COURSE FOR PARTY DELIBERATIONS, AND TAIL OFF
LATER IN THE WEEK, THUS DENYING THE JUSOS AND OTHER
LEFTIST PARTY ELEMENTS THE IMPACT OF SUBSTANTIAL NEWS
COVERAGE. THE STRIKE, PARTICULARLY IF IT CONTINUES
FOR SEVERAL DAYS, COULD UPSET THIS PREDICTION.
HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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